

honored to recognize him as my Constituent of the Month for May.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, on May 8, 2019, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on the Orange Book Transparency Act (H.R. 1503) and the Purple Book Transparency Act (H.R. 1520). Had I been present for roll calls No. 187 and 188, I would have voted AYE on both.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEEHAWKEN VOLUNTEER FIRST AID SQUAD

### HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the essential role the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad plays in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our communities as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their founding. Started in May 1969, the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad currently has thirty active members and provides free life-saving emergency medical services to Weehawken and the surrounding communities in my district.

The Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad is Hudson County's longest serving volunteer EMS organization and has responded to emergencies of community and national attention, including the World Trade Center Attacks, the landing of Flight 1549 on the Hudson River, and Hurricane Sandy. Furthermore, the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad continues to give back to the communities it serves through regular CPR and First Aid training to residents.

I am grateful to the men and women of the Weehawken Volunteer First Aid Squad who volunteer their time and skills in dedication to the safety of the 8th District and commend them on this momentous occasion.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT PEAR

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for the outstanding journalistic career of Robert Pear and to join so many who share a deep sadness over his untimely loss.

Those of us who had the chance to pitch a story to Robert or faced the challenge of responding to his questions knew he was deeply knowledgeable about health care. For 40 years, he reported on every major health care story and raised many issues that became

major stories based on his reporting. He knew the laws that were in place, studied the policies being proposed to change those laws, and combed proposed legislation to get the details right. I knew that I had to know my stuff when Robert Pear called, because he would ask smart questions that demanded serious and thoughtful answers.

What always impressed me about Robert was his interest in looking at how the Congressional debate would affect real people. Health care wasn't just an inside-the-Beltway political conflict in Robert's reporting, it was a debate that had real-life consequences for everyone in every part of our nation. He would read the footnotes of GAO reports but would be even more interested in talking with my constituents about how high cost-sharing or lifetime limits affected their family budgets. He was masterful in being able to translate arcane policy into understandable language—informing both policymakers and the public. We all paid attention to a Robert Pear article.

Robert was a great reporter and he was a great and kind person. Robert always made you feel that he respected your views and was grateful for the time you gave him. He was interested in all perspectives and viewpoints. He would regularly check in with my long time Chief of Staff and health policy expert, Cathy Hurwit. He always said thank you—and you know he meant it. He would often send follow-up emails to share something that he thought might be of interest. He was the nation's pre-eminent health care reporter, but he was never a self-promoter. His goal was always to get the story and to get it right.

We have lost an important and astute chronicler of health care. After four decades of relying on his reporting, it is hard to imagine that we will never again read another Robert Pear article in The New York Times. My deep condolences go to his brother Douglas, his friends, and all those who got to know Robert Pear the reporter and the person.

#### CONGRATULATING WENDY BARON ON HER RETIREMENT

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true public servant on her retirement. Wendy Baron retires today from the Idaho National Laboratory as the Emergency Communications Department manager.

Her remarkable journey at the lab started in the early 1980's. She first held a summer job at Argonne National Laboratory-West while she was in college and then returned after earning a degree in communications at Idaho State University in the public affairs office.

She left to work in private consulting in the 90's but found her way back to the lab in 2000. During this time, she also began volunteering with the Chubbuck Fire Department. I am not sure if it was that first EMT call to the Chubbuck Flying J where she delivered a baby in the front seat of a minivan, but it was in this job that Wendy discovered a passion for firefighting and emergency response. So Wendy turned her volunteer passion into her career.

In 2005 at 41 years old, Wendy became a member of the Idaho National Laboratory Fire

Department. She trained hard to pass the physical test, including dragging a toboggan loaded with rock salt around her neighborhood at 4 a.m. Wendy immediately became active in union activities and leadership at the INLFD and just two years later, she helped lead the effort to reorganize the 75-member department into the International Association of Firefighters and served as the new local's president. That same year, Wendy was named the 2007 INL Firefighter of the year and was elected to serve on the executive board of the Professional Fire Fighters of Idaho (PFFI). She was then named PFFI Fire Fighter of the Year in 2009.

In 2013, Wendy was promoted to assistant fire chief for planning and logistics. Today, there are seven women in the INLFD, one of them a battalion chief. Fire Chief Eric Gossweiler credits Wendy for laying the groundwork for them.

Wendy is quick to credit those around her for her success. But even despite her humility, it is clear that Wendy is extraordinarily talented, hardworking, and dedicated. These qualities have resulted in the great respect and affection that her colleagues share for her.

I know Wendy looks forward to spending more time with her family in retirement, especially her husband Victor. She will also enjoy more sailing, backpacking, scuba and participating in competitive swimming and running events.

On behalf of a grateful community, I congratulate Wendy Baron on an incredibly successful and admirable career, and I wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement.

#### HONORING ETHEL MAE MCCULLUM 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a remarkable milestone reached by a wonderful constituent in my district. On May 8, 2019 we will celebrate the 100th birthday of Ms. Ethel Mae McCullum. It is my distinct honor to help celebrate the occasion.

Ethel was born in Dunn, North Carolina to her parents Slona Streeter and Grant Bullard Streeter. She had two siblings, John Streeter and Beulah Lee. For 23 years, Ethel worked for the State of New York, and for 33 years she has been a resident of Tilden Towers II in the Bronx.

Ethel was always very involved with Tilden Towers II, working diligently with the Board for decades. But she was also involved in a host of other organizations. She is a lifetime member of the local chapter of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), participating in many of the group's fundraisers, annual luncheons, and other events. She is also a longtime member of Abyssinian Baptist Church—over 80 years to be precise—and her first ever Pastor was Rev. Adam Clayton Powell III.

Ethel's stories about growing up in rural North Carolina have always been a hit with the seniors living in the community. Her personality is, and always has been, loving and caring to all she encounters, and it shows.

Many people refer to Ethel as "everyone's Nana." And while she is beloved by all, she is

in actuality the matriarch of an astounding 5 generations. Ethel loves her family deeply, and always made sure to send every one of her grandchildren and great grandchildren cards on their birthdays.

Madam Speaker, it's hard to put into words what Ethel Mae McCullum has meant to our community. Everyone knows what a warm and caring individual she is, and everyone knows just how many lives she has touched. 100 years is a remarkable milestone, and Ethel is an equally remarkable person. On this very special occasion, I want to congratulate Ethel and personally send her my warmest wishes.

TRIBUTE TO MS. EARNESTINE  
RASBERRY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the life of Ms. Earnestine Rasberry who was affectionately known by her family, friends and loved ones as "Mommy". Ms. Rasberry was born on December 15, 1940 in Edwards, Mississippi,

to the late Genella Jones and Floyd Hopkins, Sr. She accepted Christ at an early age while living in Mississippi and later moved to Chicago while a teenager. In April of 1965 she and Mr. Moses Rasberry were united in holy matrimony. Earnestine enrolled in Malcom X College and earned an Associate's Degree in Science Degree in Nursing and began her nursing career at Cook County Hospital where she worked for many years and then retired from Hartgrove Hospital in 2005. Her nursing career spanned for fifty years. Fifty years of looking after and caring for others. In addition to nursing, Earnestine had strong interests in traveling and cooking. A few of her favorite destinations included Alaska, Antarctica and China. The highlight of one of her many excursions was meeting Grammy Award winning Gerald Levert. Earnestine knew her way around the kitchen and hosted many holiday meals for family and friends. Cooking was one of her ways she expressed her love. Earnestine was the matriarch of her family and was instrumental. All of you should be comforted by these words. And I say "let not your heart be troubled, you who believe in God, also believe in Earnestine. Her father's house has many rooms; if it was not so, would I not have told you so. She is gone to prepare a place for you, and where she is, you will be

there also. And if she goes and prepares a place for you, she will come back and take you to be with her and you will be where she is. You know the way to the place where she is going." You can go where she is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 9, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district by inclement weather and was not present for Roll Call Votes 185 and 186. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. On Roll Call 185, I would have voted "aye." (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 273, Reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act)

2. On Roll Call 186, I would have voted "aye." (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1704, Championing American Business Through Diplomacy Act of 2019)